GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:330
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003
SECRET DEAL BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND SAUDI ARABIA
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a secret agreement on nuclear co-operation was entered into by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia as reported in the `Indian Express` dated October 23, 2003;

(b) If so, the details regarding the said matter;

(c) the impact on India`s security and regional imbalance likely to be caused by the said agreement; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) & (b) Government have seen the reports regarding agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on transfer of nuclear technology in exchange for oil; and denials thereof by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

(c) & (d) Government carefully monitors such developments and remains committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India`s security based on a realistic assessment of the country`s security environment.